



To Whom It May Concern:

You are most likely reading this letter because Ryan Wilson is applying for employment. My advice to you is 'Hire him immediately!' Ryan is a pleasant, well-rounded and competent individual with an indescribable passion for teaching. He has a very calm, accepting, and respectful demeanor yet has high expectations for his students.

I had the pleasure of working with Ryan when he served as a 'tutor' for the problem-based learning course in the dental hygiene curriculum at Northern Arizona University in 2006. Problem-based learning involves self-directed learning and collaborative learning, requiring teachers ('tutors') who are facilitators rather than content experts. Ryan excelled at tutor skills including asking good questions, facilitating provocative discussion, assessing student abilities and needs, and providing meaningful and constructive feedback. He took the initiative to learn as much as he could and skillfully implemented new ideas. He eagerly read everything he could get his hands on and invited and received feedback like a sponge.

Because of Ryan's exemplary performance, I invited him to teach a group of tutors in 2007- 2008. These tutors each work with a group of students. This responsibility involves organizational skills as well as flexibility, as it involves coordination of activities between several courses each of which depend on the somewhat unpredictable direction the students will take. Ryan has cleverly designed learning experiences for the tutors that model the behaviors he hopes they will master in their role. He has also been involved in curriculum development, taking the initiative to design new problems and implement new assessment tools.

Ryan is contributing so much to the student and tutor experience and I must say that he has taught me a tremendous amount as well. Ryan has wisdom and experience beyond his years. If his dreams included Flagstaff, I would certainly attempt to hire him. Consider yourself lucky if Ryan is knocking on your door.

Sincerely,  
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